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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,723	07/28/2003	Jeong Chan Lim	11037-129-999	6729
24341	7590 07/18/2005	- 4	EXAMINER	
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP.			KRAMER, DEAN J	
2 PALO ALTO 3000 EL CAM	•		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PALO ALTO,	PALO ALTO, CA 94306			
		·	DATE MAIL ED 07/10/000	•

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  If the period for reply specified above is less brush thirty (30) days, a reply which the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is less brush thirty (30) days, a reply which the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is less brush thirty (30) days, a reply which the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is less brush thirty (30) days, a reply which the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days, will be considered timely.  Any reply received by the Office later than thirties months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any seared patient term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).  Status  1) Responsive to communication (s) filed on	•		Application No.	Applicant(s)			
Dean J. Kramer  Dean J. Krame	Office Action Summary		10/628,723	LIM, JEONG CHAN			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Educations of sem reply be switched under the provision of 37 CFR 1.73(a). In or event, however, may a reply be timely filled to be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above its less than thirty (20) deep, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) deep, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above its less than thirty (20) deep, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) deep, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above its less than thirty (20) deep, and will reply size (5) MONTH's flow the mailing date of this communication, reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) deep, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above its less than thirty (20) deep, will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified does, the mainman of the second period to reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) deep will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified discontinuation, and the second period to reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) deep will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified timely will, yet all deep and will reply and will reply specified in the second period reply specified to reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) deep will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified timely will, yet all the second reply and will reply specified timely.  If the period for reply specified timely will, yet all the period reply and will reply and the second reply and the second reply and the second reply and the second reply			Examiner	Art Unit			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM THE MALLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Edecations of lone may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled  - EMBORITORY STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ② MONTH(S) FROM THE MALLING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Edecations of lone may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.35(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled  - EMBORITOR of the provision of the mailing date of this communication, even if limely filled, may reduce any search places to term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.74(b).  - Status  - This action is FINAL.  - 2b) This action is non-final.  - 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  - Disposition of Claims  - 4) Claim(s) 1.8 Is/are pending in the application.  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  - 5) Claim(s) 1.8 Is/are placed.  - 7) Claim(s) 1.4 and 6.8 Is/are rejected.  - 7) Claim(s) 1.4 and 6.8 Is/are rejected.  - 7) Claim(s) 1.4 and 6.8 Is/are rejected to by the Examiner.  - 10) The drawing(s) filled on 28 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b)							
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Estancion dum may be available under the provision of 3 CFR 1.13(s). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SX (6) MOSITIS from the mailing date of this communication.  **The Communication of the Communi	The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on	A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any						
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#### **DETAILED ACTION**

### Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, line 7, after the word "screw", it appears that the word –shaft—should be inserted in order to remain consistent with previously used claim terminology. Appropriate correction is required.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Littell (4,129,328) in view of Keene (3,970,201).

Littell shows a level adjusting mechanism comprising a horizontally moveable support member (35), a cylinder assembly (48), a shaft (51), an actuating means (50,54,55), and a suction cup (30). Littell's shaft (51) is not disclosed as a flexible screw shaft as is called for in the above claims of the instant application.

However, Keene shows a gripping mechanism comprising a plurality of shaft assemblies (22) that can be considered a "screw" shaft due to its threaded portion (26) and "flexible" due to its rubber portion (24).

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Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the shaft (51) and joint (62,63) of Littell's mechanism with a flexible screw shaft similar to that shown in the Keene patent as an alternative yet functionally equivalent means of allowing for vertical linear movement of the shaft while accommodating slight angular variations with fewer moving parts.

Regarding claim 5, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide a pump or motor for generating the pressurized air to actuate the piston (50) in the resulting assembly.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **Drawings**

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "31" as depicted in Figures 2A and 2B. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each

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drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 4, line 7, reference number "40" should be changed to –39--.

Appropriate correction is required.

## **Priority**

6. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Birk et al. patent shows a flexible shaft having a suction cup attached to its lower end.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dean J. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6926. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. (7:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571) 272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Déan J. Kramer Primary Examiner Art Unit 3652

djk 7/12/05